

Application No. 10/576946
Response to the Office Action dated November 10, 2008

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph appearing on page 8, lines 12-17 of the specification as follows:

Hercin, the nitridosilicate-based compound of the present invention refers to a compound containing at least an alkaline-earth metal element or a rare earth element, silicon, and nitrogen, such as nitridosilicates, oxonitridosilicates, nitridoaluminosilicates, oxonitridoaluminosilicates, etc. In the present specification, compounds having a ~~SIALON~~ type crystal structure SIALON represented by a general formula:
 $M_{p/2}Si_{12-p-q}Al_{p+q}O_qN_{16-q}$ (where M is Ca or Ca combined with Sr; q is 0 to 2.5; and p is 1.5 to 3) are is excluded.